

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 8, and 15. Claims 1-15 are pending and under current examination.

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,374 to Coleman et al. ("*Coleman*"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 1 recites, for example, a computer program product comprising instructions operable to cause data processing apparatus to:

receive user input from a user to establish a normal mode or a decoupled mode of user interface operation; and
receive navigation input, distinct from the user input, to navigate from one user interface element to another user interface element, where in the normal mode, navigation to an independent element with the navigation input is sufficient to cause the independent element to become the selected element, and where in the decoupled mode, navigation to an independent element does not change which, if any, of the independent elements is the selected element

(emphasis added). *Coleman* does not teach or suggest a navigation input that is sufficient to cause an independent element to become a selected element, where the navigation input is distinct from a user input to establish a normal or decoupled mode.

The Examiner asserts that *Coleman* discloses to "receive input from a user to establish a normal mode ('releases switch') or a decoupled mode ('depressing switch') ... and receive navigation input ('dragging the cursor and slider') ... in the normal mode

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

navigation to an independent element ('over the desired letter) causes the independent element to become the selected element ('a letter may be selected by ...'), and where in the decoupled mode ('depressing switch'), navigation to an independent element ('dragging the cursor and slider over the desired letter') does not change which, if any, of the independent elements ('plurality of letters') is the selected element ('at which point the user releases the switch')" (Office Action pages 2-3). Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that *Coleman* discloses navigation to an independent element causes the independent element to become the selected element.

The cited portions of *Coleman* state, "a letter may be selected by placing cursor 44 over a portion of slider 175, depressing switch 46 and dragging the cursor and slider over the desired letter, at which point the user releases switch 46" (*Coleman* col. 11, lines 20-23). Even assuming "placing cursor 44 over a portion of slider 175" corresponds to the claimed "navigation input," and "depressing [the] switch" corresponds to the claimed "user input," *Coleman* does not teach placing the cursor over the slider causes the independent element to become the selected element.

Because *Coleman* does not teach that navigation to an independent element causes the independent element to become the selected element, Applicants have considered the possibility that the Examiner is asserting that this combination of placing the cursor over the slider, depressing the switch, dragging the cursor and slider, and releasing the switch corresponds to the term "navigation." While Applicants disagree with this construction of the term "navigation," in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a navigation input "distinct from the user

input” and “sufficient to cause the independent element to become the selected element.” Thus, if pressing the switch in *Coleman* is alleged to teach the user input, pressing the switch cannot also be part of the navigation input. Because *Coleman* teaches selecting a letter requires pressing the switch, the alleged navigation input in *Coleman* includes pressing the switch, and is thus not “distinct” from the alleged user input. *Coleman* therefore discloses no navigation input sufficient to cause an independent element to become a selected element, where the navigation input is distinct from a user input to establish a normal or decoupled mode.

Although of different scope, independent claims 8 and 15 recite features similar to those of claim 1 already discussed. Claims 1-7 depend from claim 1, and claims 9-14 depend from claim 8. *Coleman* therefore does not anticipate claims 2-15 for at least the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

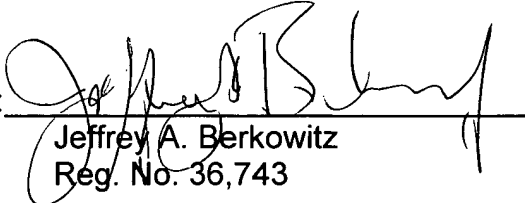
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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